

LYLE, the second mate of the s.s. *Guildhall*, was fined \$25 at Singapore and dismissed his ship for assaulting the master, Captain McGregor.

Dr. Bertillon, who is known to the world as the discoverer of the anthropometric system, has just invented a new method of identifying handwriting, in spite of disguises or imitations, by photographic enlargements which show the effect of the pulsations on the hand.

The Siam Free Press advises the French to adopt strong repressive measures for the pirates on the borders of Tonkin. Our contemporary compares the French native levies with Britain's Indian Army to the disparagement of the French levies.

A KING of the name Halibon, has been presented with the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for bravely attempting to save the lives of two of his comrades, who had been overcome by stupefying gases in the hold of the steamer *Carmarthenshire* at Singapore on February 4.

The German steamer *Fidelio* which left Kobe early last month for Bangkok with about two hundred Japanese passengers on board, is now overdue, says the *Siam Free Press* of the 27th ult., and some anxiety is felt for her safety owing to the late boisterous weather in the China Sea.

We notice that the Rev. G. H. Bondfield, formerly pastor of the Union Church, Hongkong, but now connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society at Shanghai, is a passenger by the *Empress of China* leaving Vancouver on the 16th inst. He is accompanied by Mrs and Miss Bondfield.

It is announced from home, and we are sure the announcement will be received with much regret in China, that Mr E. H. Parker has resigned his post in B. M. Consular Service in China, on account of ill-health. Mr Parker is said to be suffering from cancer. Letters we have received from Mr Parker by the English mail show that he is as busily engaged on literary work as ever.

A POINT of some interest to employers has been raised in the British Consular Court at Bangkok. The proprietor of the *Bangkok Times* had occasion to complain of one of his compositors staying away from work without leave, and as a penalty ordered the man to be suspended for one day. The compositor, who rejoices in the distinguished name of Sheikh Abdul Aziz, took this as an out-and-out dismissal, and brought an action for wages in lieu of notice. The Court held, according to the published report, that 'Defendant had a right to make a deduction from plaintiff's wages owing to the neglect of the plaintiff in absconding himself without reasonable cause, or to dismiss him at once, but had no right to suspend him. The suspension was understood as a dismissal; the breach of contract therefore was due to a misunderstanding. The plaintiff's wages must be paid up to this date, after deduction of the half-day on August 12th; and costs are divided.' This is a decidedly illogical decision. Defendant had a right to dismiss him at once, the suspension was understood as a dismissal. These are the words attributed to the judge, and he really said them they amounted to a verdict for the defendant. Yet the Court awarded the plaintiff wages up to date of judgment, which was 17 days after the dismissal. Such a paradoxical judgment is distinctly stupid to deserve a place in *Trunk's 'Pillory'*.

Our Tonkin contemporaries have been intensely indignant because we made fun of their military operations against the pirates. One French writer is so violently incensed at our innocent merriment that he calls it a 'John Bullerie,' and talks of a 'massacration' toying with a tooth-brush. A prize of one franc will be awarded to anybody who can find out what he means. Perhaps the gigantic power of the *China Mail* is the mastodon, and the spluttering splash of the tooth brush is the rest of Western journalism. But in order to show how truly ridiculous these Tonkin military operations are, we will give exact translations from French official reports, as published in Haiphong and Hanoi, and if they are wrong it is not our fault. A hundred French officers and men hors de combat through having to march and fight under the burning sun, eleven natives killed, and three breach-loaders captured, besides camp stores, etc., is the laudatory family (for whose relief from captivity the expedition was organized) would certainly have been released, but that they had been carried further away out of reach. If that is not a farce, what is? And while these operations were in preparation, subscriptions were raised all over Tonkin for the ransom of the prisoners; something like \$10,000 had been demanded by the brigands, and the subscription only reached \$200 or \$300. At least fifty cases of supplies, provisions, etc., were sent up country from Kébo for the use of the captives, but of course were all grabbed by the pirates on reaching the place—all but one small parcel, for which M. Lycaudet gave a receipt to the bearer—probably the reward to be paid on production of the receipt was better worth getting than the parcel.

BANJOES, guitars, mandolines, autoharps, violas, also strings and things for sale at Mr. Robinson and Co.

The *Empress of India* arrived at Nagasaki 7 a.m. to-day, and leaves again at 6 p.m. for Vancouver, via Kobe and Yokohama.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$10,672, being an increase of \$6,309 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year.

It is reported from Europe that the Russian Minister of Finance will shortly appoint additional commercial agents in China and Japan.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's *R.M.S. Empress of Japan* arrived at Yokohama at 7 p.m. on Sunday the 8th inst., and sailed again at 11 a.m. on Monday for Kobe, where she is due at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 10th.

The *Extreme Orient* quotes Mr Chautemps as saying that 'where, on the word of M. de Lussan (late Governor of French Indo-China) we relied on the balance of receipts and expenses, we now find a deficit, and we are at present face to face with a deficit of 14 to 15 million francs for which we shall have to ask the Chamber for a supplementary vote.' This must be the deficit which was referred to in a recent telegram.

The following is a return of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published in the *Gazette*:

| Banks. | Average Amount. | Specie in Reserve. |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. | 1,688,427 | 1,000,000 |
| Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. | 5,779,025 | 2,500,000 |
| National Bank of China, Ltd. | 885,300 | 250,000 |
| | \$7,352,752 | \$3,750,000 |

This afternoon, the piece of land on Marine Road 27½, lying between the new Hongkong Club buildings and the Victoria Recreation Club, on the Praya Reclamation, was exposed for sale by public auction. There was a small attendance, and the lot was knocked down for \$104,025 to Mr H. G. Dowler, on behalf of Messrs Butterfield and Swire. The lot contains 16,000 square feet, and is situated at the corner of Connaught and Murray Roads. It is a magnificent site for offices. The annual rent is \$294.

At the Magistrate's Court, before Mr H. E. Wedderburn, Lung Shan Chung was charged with attempting to evade arrest and shooting at a District Watchman, on the 6th inst. This was the case which arose among the passengers of the German steamer *Wuotan*. The steamer having to dock here on the way from Singapore to Amoy, her passengers were put up temporarily at Kennedy town, and as they were being taken along the Praya one of them was attacked by two others, who tried to deprive him of his money. He raised an alarm, and they ran away. A District Watchman gave chase, and was fired at by the defendant, who was one of the two and was the slower at running away. The watchman then stopped pursuing, but the man was arrested during the evening. The affair was witnessed by Mr J. Miller, overseer in the Public Works Department, who happened to be looking after some houses close to the spot. He identified the prisoner as being the same man who was in the affair. The case was adjourned until Wednesday.

Tax billiard tournament (handicap) which has been in progress in the New Victoria Hotel for some time was brought to a close on Saturday night. The finalists were Mr J. Galbraith, of the China Sugar Refinery, and Col. Sergt. Horsman of the Rifle Brigade. The game was 300 points, and both men started from 50. There were nearly 200 spectators, and the presence of so many on-lookers appeared to put Sergt. Horsman off his game. The game was interesting but the finish was not so close as expected. Mr Galbraith playing in fine style and winning by a big margin. At the close, Mr Farmer, on behalf of the proprietors, Messrs Farmer and Madar, presented the winner with a handsome cup valued at \$150, congratulating him on his success. There were upwards of sixty-five competitors. A new tournament will be started next month, entries closing on Monday, 30th inst.

One of the grievances of France against 'Perfidious Albion' is that most of the submarine cables are owned by British companies, as the natural result of British supremacy in enterprise and capital; and the reason why the French do not like this is that British telegraph people would probably not give their services to France in case of war with England. The natural remedy would be for France to have cables of her own; but somehow she does not make much progress in that direction. Instead, the French Colonies are patriotically withdrawing their support from the existing cables of the hated 'shop-keepers.' The West Indies and Panama Cable Company, in its last annual report, announces the withdrawal of subsidies from Martinique and Guadeloupe, to the amount of \$4,000 per annum. The Company had to subsidize chiefly on its subsidies, for of course the great expectations of Panama have come to nothing; and now the Cable Company is unable to pay a dividend, after running for twenty years.

W. ROBINSON and Co. are Special Agents for all the leading English and Continental Pianoforte Manufacturers.

We are glad to hear that Mr A. G. Wise has been appointed Puisne Judge, and have much pleasure in congratulating him and the Colony upon his appointment, which is sure to give general satisfaction.

The Chinese Mail (*Wah, Tai, Yat Po*) says that telegraphic information has been received at Canton stating that on the 3rd inst. an extensive fire occurred in Wuchow, a town on the West River on the borders of Kwang Tung and Kwang Sz Provinces. The conflagration, aided by the inflammable nature of the houses, which are generally built of wood and bamboo, in its work of devastation, lasted about twenty-four hours, and destroyed several hundreds of houses. The telegraph suffered extensive damage in consequence of the destruction of poles and wires. No loss of lives is as yet reported.

Owens to increase of Business. W. Robinson and Co. Ltd. are increasing their Piano and Organ showrooms to Connaught House—large stock—low prices.

ROYAL ENGINEERS' ATHLETIC AND AQUATIC SPORTS. These sports were held at Wellington Barracks on Saturday, and were a complete success.

The following were the officials:—President and Referee—Major Wootteley, R.E.; Committee—Lieut. W. M. Thompson and E. P. Davis de Vire, Sergeants C. Skinner, T. Hoines, and E. L. Healy. Second Corporals Hughes and Davis, Sappers Lawson, Thompson, McGregor, and Hall; Starters—Sergeants J. Holden and Corporal Lynch; Treasurer—Q.M.S. E. H. Blackler.

The following were the prize-winners:—

High Jump—Sapper McGregor and Resister tied for 1st place. Sapper Hall 3rd. **Long Jump**—Private Murray, O.S.C. 1st; Lance-Corporal Peels, A.S.C. 2nd; Sapper McGregor 3rd. **Putting the Shot**—Corporal Fraser, M.S.C. 1st; Sergeant Ralphs, A.P.C. 2nd. **Tug-of-War**—Departmental Corps 1st; R.E. team 2nd. **Base Ball**—Sapper 1st.

Egg and Spoon Race—Sapper Beatty 1st, Lance-Corporal Peels 2nd, Sapper Lester 3rd.

Veterans' Race—Sergeant Weston 1st, Q.M.S. Blackler 2nd, Sapper Stevens 3rd.

AQUATIC.

Barrel Race—Sapper McGregor 1st, Sapper Collins 2nd, Sapper Murray 3rd.

Swimming Race, Quarter Mile (open to Garrison)—Private Williams, R.E. 1st; A.C. Sullivan 2nd, Private Aylard 3rd.

Long Dive—Sapper Sherry 1st, Sapper McGregor 2nd, Lance-Corporal Carter 3rd.

Gig Race (Chinese Sappers)—Naiqua Chung 1st, Sapper's crew 1st, Havidar Ah Fat's crew 2nd.

Swimming Race 100 yds.—Corporal Fraser, M.S.C. 1st; Private Holden, M.O.S. 2nd; Sapper King 3rd.

Tug-of-War in Water—2nd Corp. Hughes' team 1st.

Chinese Swimming Race, 100 yds.—Naiqua Ah Ti 1st, Sapper Yue On 2nd, Sapper Kwok On 3rd.

Dinghy Sculling Race—Sapper King 1st, Sapper Thompson 2nd.

THE GYMKHANA.

The following were the results at Saturday's Gymkhana:—

FOOT RACE FOR EUROPEANS; 50 YARDS. Wheeler Barrow Race, First prize \$3.00, second \$2.00, third \$1.00; fourth \$0.50. Private Brickett and Private Dillon 1st; Hare Miles Race, HANDICAP, for all China Poles. First prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of out-ance fees; third 30 per cent.

Hon. J. J. Bell-River's *Daylight*, 11.11 (Owner) 1st; Capt. Radcliffe's *Dandy*, 11.13 (Owner) 2nd; Mr Cruickshank's *Warlock*, 11.2 (Owner) 3rd.

Major Moore's *Sweetbriar*, 11.4 (Owner) 4th; Mr Lewin's *Tommy*, 10.5 (Lord Conyngham) 5th.

Time, 65 secs.

TEXT PRIZING COMPETITION; three runs allowed; points deducted for style and pace; Entrance fee \$1.00. First prize \$100, presented by His Excellency Major-General Black, O.B.; second the entrance fees.

Mr Cruickshank won after a tie with Mr D. Landale, the judges being of opinion that Mr Cruickshank took his legs in the best style. The other competitors were Capt. Weldon, Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, Capt. Burney, Capt. Lovebard, Mr Salmon, and Mr Drury.

LADIES' NOMINATION 'WHITE TIE' RACE; competitors to start from a flag at distance down the course, ride to winning post, get white dinner tie tied by non-competitor, mount, ride to table at winning post, dismount, draw a pig on paper, mount again, and finish at winning post. Two prizes.

Conditions.—3 points each for good tie and drawing; 2 points for each midling tie and drawing; 1 point for each bad tie and drawing; points for first passing winning post; 2 points for second passing winning post.

Competitors having equal number of points will be placed in the order of their finishing passing the winning post.

Non-competitors: Mrs Hawkins 1st; Mr A. D. H. Grayson 2nd; Mrs Drury 3rd; Mr W. A. Cruickshank 4th; Mrs Gray 5th; Captain Weldon 6th; Mrs Weldon 7th; Mr J. S. Bruce 8th; Mrs Jackson 9th; Capt. Radcliffe 10th; Mrs Keble 11th; Mr G. N. Salmon 12th; Mrs Moore 13th; Mr Parley 14th; Madame O'Gorman 15th; Mr Peter 16th; Miss Jackson 17th.

HANDICAP ODDS RACE; for all China poles. First prize a cup value about \$50 presented; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr Hart Buck's *Valley*, 11.2 (Owner) 1st; Mr Little's *Asat*, 11.3 (Owner) 2nd; Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman 3rd; Lord O. Conyngham's *Glenies*, 11.6 (Owner) 4th; Mr W. D. Graham's *Baccarat*, 11.8 (Owner) 5th; Mr Cruickshank's *Warlock*, 11.1 (Owner) 6th; Major Moore's *Sweetbriar*, 11.4 (Owner) 7th.

Time, 1 min. 09 secs.

FOOT RACE. Each Race, 100 yds. distance. First prize \$20.00; second \$10.00; third \$5.00. Open to all soldiers and police.

The event was left to the soldiers.

RACIALS' PHOTOS. The finest in the World taken and tone unequalled. Sale Agents, W. Robinson and Co.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN OPEN LETTER TO 'BROWNE'.

Hongkong, 9th Sept.

My dear Browne,—If you are really and truly a Browne, you will not give your information as a fact, but as a mere opinion. You can pass through closed doors and learn all our secrets when you will. It is a pity that in the case of the Bank of China you depended on an informant. He has, we hope, wholly unintentionally, and without any intention of the Plaintiff, won no victory in Chambers the other day. The Plaintiff's claim to pay all costs of the amendment or consequent thereon. Mr Drummond strongly opposed the amendment, and asked for the case to be dismissed entirely, with costs against the Plaintiff. He was defeated. He did not get the order he asked for. The Plaintiff did get the order he asked for in the terms in which they asked for it. The amendment of the case was necessary consequent on the application to amend.—Yours very truly,

JNO. J. FRANCIS.

THE KUCHENG MASSACRE.

MORE OFFICIAL DUPLICITY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Forehew, Monday, Sept. 9, 3.45 p.m.

There has been more official recalcitancy at Kucheng.

On Tuesday last, 3rd September, the Prefect secretly liberated eleven prisoners.

Colonel Hixson, the U.S. Consul, demanded the re-arrest of the men, and the Prefect promised they would be arrested in five days. Two of the eleven men liberated are known to be guilty participants in the massacre at Hwasang.

Thirteen prisoners have been selected for immediate execution.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Doubtless the teachings of Christianity are not easily reconcilable with many of the practices of ordinary life in China. It is impossible, however, to admit the doctrine of the Chinese mind, and to be glad to have themselves of the pretence that missionaries are especially objectionable, murder, rapine, and outrage of the most brutal kind should be allowed to go unpunished.

It is not ground that the Chinese Government has not been able to put forward on the subject of the Kucheng massacre any convincing evidence.

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even the invertebrate stupidity of the Court must have learnt a little of wisdom from Japan's recent misfortune. If it gave Japan a walk over, it will surely give to the Government of Great Britain and the United States quite out of patience the tattered dog of delays, followed by the most meagre redress.—*Full Mail Gazette*, Aug. 6.

The Powers must show themselves sufficiently persistent and over threatening in their demands for the punishment of the real offenders to induce the Chinese Government to exercise its authority, which is really great, as proved by the exceptional security enjoyed by foreigners during the war between China and Japan. Failing this, the advantages accruing to foreigners from that war will remain a dead letter, and so also will the Convention of 1855 allowing missionaries to own houses in the interior, the confirmation of which has recently been obtained by our Minister in Peking. The policy of penetration into China may be open to discussion, but once adopted the requisite measures must be taken, and respect for treaties exacted. Nothing can justify international jealousies in such a case. All the European Powers have identical interests in China. It is to be hoped that England will obtain for the Kucheng massacre a reparation by which all Europeans will profit.—*Le Journal des Debats*.

FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

If there had been European interference in America, there is even more of an excuse for similar action in South China, and when a very mild outrage on the British Consul at Peking, the Prefect's recalcitancy, it ought to be possible to bring the Chinese to reason in the same way, seeing how much there has been the provocation and the excuse for the adoption of strong measures. There are not wanting signs that the Government of China is losing its hold—over the Southern population of that vast kingdom, who are quite in order and temperance the more Northern people. There are many who prophesied that, on the first shock delivered to the Peking Government, the whole administration would fly to pieces, and the country would be split up into separate kingdoms, after a period of anarchy and murder, else that portions of it would drift into the possession of the different European Powers, who have all had covetous eyes on the trade and the rich provinces of China. This prophecy seems to be coming true, the Japanese have destroyed nearly all the trading posts and posts and his counselors ever had, and the next ten years will probably see vast changes in the Celestial Kingdom—the outcome of movements which have been in operation beneath the surface for a long time, and which the present outrage and anarchy is but the first stage of.

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